Scotland, Church of.—General Assembly.
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Edinburgh, March 14th, 1728.

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R. D. B.

THE Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly finding, That many Miniſters had not received His preſent Majeſty's pious Proclamation for Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and preventing and puniſhing of Vice, Profaneneſs and Immorality, only a few Copies having been ſent to Sheriffs; and conſidering how much it is their Duty to concur in that Matter, did agree, that the foreſaid Proclamation ſhould be reprinted, and Copies ſent to each Presbytery, one for every Pariſh in their reſpective Bounds; and it is deſired that Care be taken, that Miniſters read the ſame from their Pulpits, with ſuitable Exhortations; and it is entreated that Synods, Presbyteries, Miniſters and Elders uſe their beſt Endeavours, for the further Reformation of Manners, and the more effectual curbing and ſuppreſſing of Profaneneſs and Vice, and promoting true Religion and ſerious Godlineſs; and to excite unto, and recommend Family-Religion, and Attendance on publick Worſhip, and ſee to the Execution of the 9th Act of the General Aſſembly held in the Year 1722, with the other Acts mentioned in the 8th and 14th Inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly, *anno* 1717, to their Commiſſion, and renewed by the late Aſſembly; alſo that Care be taken for extirpating of Idolatrous and Superſtitious Practices, and ſuppreſſing of Popery.

It being found, that notwithſtanding there be clear Acts of Parliament, for a School in every Pariſh, and former General Aſſemblies have frequently recommended to Presbyteries to hold Hand to the Execution of theſe Acts; and that the General Aſſembly in the Year 1719, by their 4th Act, and the Commiſſion by their Letter, dated the 12th Day of *March* 1724, did give Directions and Encouragement in that Matter; yet there are diverſe Pariſhes who want Schools, and have never ſent hither any Account of their Diligence in what was thereby recommended, nor where the ſame ſtops: And therefore it is deſired, that Presbyteries may yet do their Part therein, without further Delay, and ſend in to the General Aſſembly, or the Commiſſion, or Procurator and Agent for the Church, a full Extract of their Diligence in that Matter, with an Account of what obſtructs this good Work.

The Commiſſion does again recommend to Presbyteries to take Care, that all Maſters in Colleges, and School-maſters within their Bounds, ſubſcribe and engage, according to the Act of Parliament *anno* 1707; Likewiſe, that Miniſters, at their Ordination and Admiſſion, and Probationers, before they be licenced, do ſubſcribe to, and come under the Engagements mentioned in the 10th Act of the General Aſſembly in the Year 1711: Alſo that Elders ſign the *Formula* in the 11th Act of the General Aſſembly *anno* 1694; Likewiſe that the 11th Act of the late General Aſſembly, concerning licencing Probationers, be obſerved, and that Presbyteries take Care of what was recommended by the late Commiſſion, and General Aſſembly, for writing Licences, Acts of Ordination

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and Admiſſion, ſince the 2d Day of *Auguſt* 1714, on the Crown ſtamped Paper; ſeeing ſuch not ſo written, is declared not to bear Faith in Law; and beſides, the Subſcribers are liable to a great Penalty, and 'tis to be feared that Proſecutions on that Account will be commenced, when ſuch illegal Deeds appear.

I am alſo appointed to put Presbyteries in Remembrance of the 11th Act of the General Aſſembly *anno* 1709, concerning their uſing Endeavours for having a Library at the Presbytery Seat, where publick Libraries are wanting, and appoint that the Libraries under the Presbyteries Care be all viſited, and the Books compared with the Catalogues, that it may be known whether theſe Libraries are encreaſing or decreaſing; and the former Recommendation for a Contribution for a Library to the new Presbytery of *Gairloch* is renewed, and Presbyteries are deſired to return a Report of their Diligence, concerning Libraries, to the General Aſſembly, or Commiſſion thereof, as ſoon as they can.

There is now an Opportunity put in our Hand, beyond whatever our Predeceſſors had, for reforming the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, and carrying on the Intereſt of Religion therein; but we are much ſtraitned at preſent for want of fit Perſons having the *Iriſh* Language, to be imployed in that good Work, and there are a great many Students having that Language, who are offering to follow their Studies, in order to qualify themſelves to ſerve this Church; and therefore the Commiſſion entreats, that Synods and Presbyteries may conſider the State of their Burſeries, and ſend an Account thereof to the next General Aſſembly, with the Names of theſe who now enjoy the ſame, and when their Time runs out; and whether any of their Burſers, having *Iriſh*, be fit to be entred on Trials, or have been lately licenced.

Some Pariſhes are yet deficient in ſending in their Collections for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge, and for new Churches in *Strathnaver* and *New York*, building a Bridge over the Water of *Dee*, and for the Harbours of *Aberbrothwick*, *Banff* and *Anſtruther*, and other charitable Contributions, recommended by the General Aſſembly; and it is recommended to Synods and Presbyteries to put Deficients in Remembrance thereof, and to ſend in their Contributions for theſe pious Uſes to the Collectors, with their Commiſſioners, to the next Aſſembly. This, in Name, and by Order of the ſaid Commiſſion, is ſignified to you by,

R. D. B.

Your affectionate Brother and

Servant in the LORD.

Will: Hamilton Moder

Commiſſion Letter
Mr Macky 1728

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